

JUNE 20, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on June 16, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Dennis Nero, Richard Gabler, Jr., Bob Roberts, Richard Dornisch, Steven Skok, Manager David Greene, and Solicitor Mark Jacob. Daniel Hepner was excused.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Fred Haas, Kim Kerchinski, Amy Goode, Amy Shields, Shelly Meier, Kenny Vogt, Gerry Vogt, Tim Cotter, Patty Cotter, Warren Stewart, Ivan Smith, Blaise Dornisch, Denny Lechien, Mark S. Wagner, Joe Calla, Donna Calla, Mike Brock, Richard Sadley, and Ned Jacob.

Mark Rupprecht, President of the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce, Matt Pfeufer, Zoning Officer, and Kim Hoffman, Bavarian Fall Fest Committee member, did not sign in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
June 6, 2011

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2011, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding legal matters. No decisions were made.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
"From Blight to Flight" presented by
Leadership Elk County members

A Special Presentation, "From Blight to Flight", was presented by the following Leadership Elk County members:

Kim Kerchinski, Amy Goode, Amy Shields, and Shelly Meier.

They gave a brief background for each of the speakers and explained how their involvement in Leadership Elk County initiated the project that was being presented to Council tonight.

The following is a summary of the information presented:

Mission- To develop a project that will assist in revitalization for community businesses, recreation and/or housing improvement efforts in our county.

Vision- To act as the catalyst for the continued development and promotion of St. Marys, through collaboration with the community, to create and nurture ideas which are part of a cohesive plan for continued prosperity coupled with the preservation of our unique heritage.

A combination of tourist attraction/family fun center to be located in downtown St. Marys was chosen as their project. The following factors influenced their decision:

- All original team members had suggested this idea and it remained the one idea they were interested in pursuing.

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- Regional tourism is increasing with a need for additional venues.
- The chosen venue would provide a “launching point” for a broader discussion of the continued redevelopment of downtown St. Marys.

A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was completed.

They listed the following as items “in the works” or have been checked off the list:

- Parking Garage
- Sheetz
- Hotel

They agreed these were essential items, but lacked two distinct characteristics:

1. Not locally owned
2. No components that will convey the heritage and local flavor of St. Marys

Their vision did not end with the project. Their project was just a piece of the puzzle, an idea for creating an anchor facility that could frame Erie Avenue and launch the last phase in the revitalization of downtown St. Marys.

Mayor Geyer thanked them for a very informative presentation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

May 16- Attended a meeting of the West Creek Rails to Trails Association held here in St. Marys.

May 17- Attended a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new lab at the GE plant on West Creek Road.

May 18- Councilman Hepner and I attended the North Central Economic Development forum held at the Penn State DuBois campus.

May 26- Met with Bob Ayoob from Thomas and Williamson to discuss the Parking Garage Project.

May 31- Attended a meeting of the Elk County Earned Income Tax Committee held at the Fox Township Municipal building.

June 1- Attended a meeting for the Parking Garage project held at the job site on Depot Street.

June 7- Met with Steve Way from Way Office Products to explore avenues to continue to save money in the purchase of office products for the City.

June 8- Matt Young and I attended a presentation of “From Blight to Flight” by the Economic Development Team of the Leadership Elk County 2010-2011 class sponsored by the Community Education Council.

June 9- Attended the Judicial Sale held at the Courthouse in Ridgway. All properties in St. Marys

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were sold except 43 North St. Marys Street.

June 14- Attended The Rural Transportation Planning Committee meeting held at the North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission offices in Ridgway.

June 14- Attended the Safety Corridor Analysis Project-Findings Presentation held at the North Central offices in Ridgway.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the Expenditures from May 16, 2011 to June 18, 2011, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mayor Geyer presented the following Treasurer’s Report as of May 31, 2011:

Total Revenue collected for the General Fund was \$3.3 million or 47.78 percent of budget. Tax Revenue collected as of May 31, 2011 was \$3 million or 69 percent of budget. Total expenditures for the General Fund as of May 31, 2011 were \$1.8 million. This was 26.66 percent of budget. Last year’s expenditures at this same time were at 31.69 percent of budget.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Request for the 10th Annual Chamber “Wing Fling”

A letter from the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce was presented with a request to close Market Street on Friday, September 9, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. and to waive the open container law during the hours of 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., for a designated area on Market Street and the Municipal parking lot between S. St. Marys Street and Market Street, for the 10th Annual Chamber “Wing Fling”.

Motion

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Dennis Nero.

Discussion

Councilman Gabler clarified the Open Container Waiver would be limited to the designated area mentioned above.

Councilman Dornisch commented the cleanup after last year’s event was very good.

Councilman Roberts asked if the tent set-up could be done on Friday instead of Thursday evening.

Mark Rupprecht, President of the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce, responded he would check on it.

Councilman Dornisch and Roberts stated they both supported the event.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to approve the requests.

Requests for the 2nd Annual Bavarian Fall Fest

A letter from the Bavarian Fall Fest Committee was presented requesting the following locations to provide for vendor spaces for September 23, 24 and 25, 2011:

Diamond area and parking around the Diamond Municipal Lot (between Market Street and South St. Marys Street) and a portion of Market Street (from

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Fox's Pizza to the former B&R)

Parking along the east side of the Boulevard and the grass area on the boulevard.

Set-up will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 23rd.

A request was also presented to waive the Open Container Law for Market Street and the above mentioned Municipal parking lot on Friday, September 23rd from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, September 24th from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

A request was also presented for use of the City Hall parking lot all day on Saturday, September 24th. Set-up to begin at 8:00 a.m.

Motion

Dennis Nero made a motion to approve the above listed requests, seconded by Bob Roberts.

Discussion

Councilman Gabler clarified the Open Container Waiver would be limited to the designated area mentioned above. He then asked what was different from last year? Kim Hoffman, Bavarian Fall Fest committee member, responded due to having a longer time to plan the event this year, more entertainment would be provided.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to approve the requests.

Sale of Effluent Water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Manager Greene explained the Agreement to sell effluent water was not ready for approval. He requested that Council give permission to the Municipal Authority to prepare the agreement for the sale of effluent water.

Bob Roberts made a motion that the sale of effluent water be done by the Municipal Authority, seconded by Richard Gabler, Jr. and all were in favor, except Dennis Nero, who opposed.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Land Development Application, re:
Dana Precht, 246 Grotzinger

A land development application from Dana Precht for property located at 246 Grotzinger Road was presented for Council's information. The applicant proposes to construct a 40' X 60' building to be used as a towing company. The use was approved via special exception by the Zoning Hearing Board on June 1, 2011 with the condition of a 10ft fenced enclosure and no storage of vehicles or equipment outside of the enclosure. The Planning Commission had no comments on the development.

Revised Zoning Ordinance
Amendment for Oil and Gas
Development

Solicitor Jacob stated he and Councilman Hepner had attended an Oil and Gas seminar on June 7th. He explained the seminar highlighted numerous effects the Oil and Gas Drilling would have on an area other than the environment. He stated after asking questions regarding the City's current proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to the individuals at the seminar, he was told the City was on the right course. He further explained a bill has been introduced in the Senate that will provide a model ordinance for municipalities to adopt. One of the problems was if the municipality chooses not to adopt the "model ordinance" they would not be included in any revenues/funding generated. He further commented the bill could possibly take years to

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pass and it was suggested the City should continue on their current path.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS
ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Warren Stewart

Warren Stewart representing the St. Marys Redevelopment Authority commented he had sent letters to the City's Developer requesting release of certain properties so the RDA could proceed with their proposed projects and had no response yet. Manager Greene suggested copies of the letters should be sent to the City so he could assist in getting a response from the developer.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Roberts requested citizens be sympathetic to the work hours of the City Road Crew during their summer projects. They are repairing, then paving roads and moving to another area of town. He commented he thought they were doing a fine job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

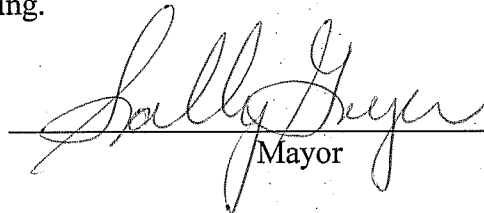
- The next Council meeting will be held Monday, July 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. **(July 4th worksession is cancelled, due to it falling on the Holiday)**

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.



Recording Secretary



Mayor